

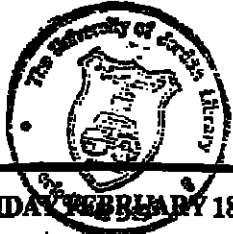
'Autonomy' envoy arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (A.P.) — Richard Fairbanks, the new U.S. envoy to the Palestinian "autonomy" negotiations, arrived on an exploratory mission Wednesday during a spate of Palestinian unrest in the occupied West Bank. Mr. Fairbanks, a former assistant secretary of state for congressional relations, was to start a round of meetings Thursday and Friday with Israeli officials including Prime Minister Menachem Begin. He travels to Cairo Sunday to follow up the Reagan administration's attempt to revive the long-stalled Israel-Egypt-U.S. talks on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"



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Iran says Iraqi jets bombed city

LONDON (R) — Iraqi aircraft bombed the western Iranian city of Esfahan Wednesday, killing 20 people and wounding 30, Tehran Radio said. The radio, monitored by Reuters, quoted its reporter in the western province of Kermanshah as saying that the city's areas were blasted by French-made Mirage fighters. It was the most serious Iraqi air attack on an Iranian city in recent months. Kermanshah province has been a focal point of Iraqi air and ground strikes since the Gulf war started 17 months ago.

Begin's deputy 'leaked secrets'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's Labour Party Wednesday accused Deputy Prime Minister Simcha Ehrlich of having deliberately leaked alleged plans for an attack into South Lebanon to prevent the operation from taking place. Labour parliamentary manager Moshe Shalev told a stunned Knesset (parliament) that Mr. Ehrlich informed journalists of the project and "...then bragged that by leaking the plan he had prevented it from being carried out." Mr. Ehrlich flatly denied the accusation and called it "a base slander." But Ronnie Milo, parliamentary manager of the Herut faction of the ruling Likud coalition, called for an inquiry and said that if the charge were correct Mr. Ehrlich must resign immediately.

Yugoslavia asks conference to drop Polish issue

MADRID (A.P.) — Yugoslavia called Wednesday for the West to drop "the subject of the Polish crisis" because the issue was threatening the European security conference. "The debate on one crisis should not in our opinion bring the Madrid meeting into a stalemate and put in doubt the future of the European security conference process itself," chief Yugoslav delegate Ignace Golob told the 35-nation conference. The Yugoslav approach appeared to be the first from the neutral and non-aligned conference members to try to save the 17-month-old stalemate meeting since it reconvened after a six-week Christmas recess on Feb. 9.

Agha Shahi denies differences with Zia

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's Foreign Minister Agha Shahi offered Wednesday to show journalists his medical reports to prove that his resignation, announced Tuesday, was genuinely on health grounds. He told a news conference here that foreign press reports that he had had differences with President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq were "out and out tendentious and not well motivated." Mr. Shahi said he would hand over his post shortly to Mr. Sahibzada Yaqub Ali Khan, currently ambassador to France, after winding up what he called some loose ends.

Sweden criticizes U.S. policies in El Salvador

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish Foreign Minister Ola Ullsten said Wednesday it was short-sighted and unworthy of the United States to support the ruling government of El Salvador. Mr. Ullsten said the U.S. should use its influence to persuade the El Salvador government to initiate negotiations along the lines of a United Nations General Assembly resolution calling on the parties in the El Salvador conflict to negotiate. Sweden was a co-sponsor of the resolution. Mr. Ullsten said he did not share the U.S. view that the crisis in Central America was due to communist subversion from outside.

Ethiopia attacks Eritrean guerrillas

KHARTOUM (R) — Ethiopia has launched a major offensive against Eritrean guerrillas in an attempt to flush out the rebels from their northern mountain stronghold, a guerrilla spokesman said Wednesday. The spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said the Ethiopians, using helicopter gunships, fighter bombers and heavy artillery, launched the attack Tuesday after massing 12 divisions in the strategic Red Sea province.

Arab World attacks Reagan declaration

By Khader Nassar
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian officials and newspapers around the Arab World reacted sharply Wednesday to a declaration by the United States that it was determined to maintain Israel's military superiority in the Middle East.

President Reagan made the statement Tuesday after an uproar in Israel over indications from Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger that the United States might consider the sale of advanced missiles and aircraft to Jordan.

Jordanian newspapers quoted Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi as saying: "When similar deals in the past were blocked by the American Congress and the Israeli lobby, Jordan contracted to buy weapons from others."

In Beirut, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said: "In spite of (Israeli Prime Minister Menachem) Begin's insistence on military sup-

riority, the Palestinian people will continue its just struggle and resist occupation."

In Saudi Arabia, the newspaper Al Yom said it regretted President Reagan's declaration and commented: "The Zionist entity makes Washington's decisions, or at least puts them in their final form."

In the United Arab Emirates, the semi-official daily Al Itihad said it was surprising President Reagan should respond so swiftly to Israel's request for assurances "while we Arabs make hundreds of appeals to Reagan only to find deaf ears and closed doors."

In Syria, newspapers reported Mr. Reagan's statement on their front pages but made no editorial comment.

The Lebanese paper Al Bayraq said: "U.S. experts know better than anyone that Jordan getting F-16 planes would not affect the military balance in favour of the Eastern (Arab) Front against Israel, but just make Jordan more able to defend its skies."

Arms to Jordan focus of Reagan-Arens talks

TEL AVIV (A.P.) — Israel's new ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens, told Israeli army radio Wednesday that he discussed Israel's concern over a possible U.S. sale to Jordan during his first meeting with President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Arens, who presented his credentials to the president on Tuesday, told the radio, "the focus of our talks was not formalities," but dealt with issues of immediate concern to Israel.

Mr. Arens said that his first conversation with Mr. Reagan "was all in all a good meeting." A letter from President Reagan to Prime Minister Menachem Begin assuring Israel that the U.S. remains committed to maintaining Israel's military edge over the Arabs was greeted with caution here.

Israel army radio quoted sources close to the premier as saying it was still too early to estimate what the Reagan administration was likely to do over the proposed sale, first mentioned by U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger during a recent visit to Jordan.

The radio quoted government

sources as estimating that the United States would keep a low profile over the possible sale of F-16 fighter planes and mobile Hawk anti-aircraft missiles until after Israel completes its withdrawal from the Sinai April 25.

The conservative Ma'ariv daily said in an editorial that although Mr. Reagan had tried to ease tension with Israel over the sale by writing to Mr. Begin, "as long as the United States plans to capture the hearts of the Jordanians at the expense of Israel, there is no room for relaxation."

Ma'ariv said that Mr. Reagan's attempt to defuse Israeli concern over the potential sale was a familiar technique. "Every change in the position of the United States that has raised deep concern in Israel has been accompanied by soft tones. And it always turned out afterwards that once Israel calmed down, Washington did what it had planned on from the beginning," the daily editorialised.

On Monday, the Israeli parliament passed by 88-3 a resolution expressing its "deep concern" over the potential U.S. sale.



His Majesty King Hussein receives at Al Hummar Palace Wednesday U.S. Senator John Glenn (far left). Attending the audience, from right to left, are Minister of Information

Adnan Abu Odeh, U.S. Ambassador Richard Viets, Court Minister Amer Khammash and Prime Minister Mudar Badran (Petra photo)

King confers with Sen. Glenn

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein conferred at Al Hummar Palace Wednesday with visiting U.S. Senator John Glenn.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Ric-

hard Viets.

Sen. Glenn, a Democrat from Ohio, is on a nine-state familiarisation tour of the Middle East region.

He had earlier met with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister Hassan Ibrahim for an exchange of views of the Middle East issue.

The minister presented Jordan's views on the issue and the basic principles for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the re-

gion, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

According to the agency, Mr. Ibrahim also talked about Israel's illegal practices in the occupied Arab territories and its establishment of settlements on confiscated Arab land. The meeting with Mr. Ibrahim, it said, was attended by Mr. Viets.

Sen. Glenn and his delegation arrived in Amman on Wednesday morning and are expected to leave for home on Thursday.

Syrian army maintains siege on Hama

DAMASCUS (A.P.) — Small-scale fighting was reported in the city of Hama Wednesday as Syrian troops maintained a siege of the Muslim Brotherhood stronghold for the 16th consecutive day, according to informed sources here.

The Syrian sources, who declined to be identified, said Syrian forces around Hama, 175 kilometres north of Damascus, were largely successful in their crackdown on the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood after 15 days of fierce shelling and street fighting.

The sources said the Syrian troops were now in the process of purging rebel fundamentalists, opposed to the ruling Baathist regime of President Hafez Al Assad from remaining hideouts in one

sector of the city and that the violence which marked the earlier days of the government crackdown had receded and was now reduced to sporadic gunfire and limited hand-to-hand combat.

In London, former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella, chairman of the International Islamic Commission on Human Rights who helped form the watch-dog group after being released from 16 years in prison last year, appealed in a letter to the Syrian president for a halt to all repressive measures in Syria.

The Qatar newspaper Al Arab quoted Lebanese sources as saying the Syrian informed Lebanese leaders that the Assad government had no plans to withdraw

its peacekeeping forces from Lebanon because of unrest in Hama. Reports broadcast by anti-Syrian Falangist radios claimed some Syrian units had been withdrawn and sent to Hama because of the fighting.

Some 22,000 Syrian soldiers have been in Lebanon since November 1976 and have a mandate from the Arab League to police a civil war armistice between rightists and leftists in Lebanon.

Diplomatic sources said the intensity of the fighting and shelling in Hama had reduced certain buildings in the city of 250,000 to rubble. Travellers spoke of a shortage of water, electricity, food and medication as Syrian troops

Mugabe sacks Zimbabwe ministers

SALISBURY (R) — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe Wednesday announced he had sacked veteran nationalist Joshua Nkomo and two of his ZAPU Party ministers from the cabinet, effectively ending the coalition of national unity which had ruled Zimbabwe since independence almost two years ago. Mr. Mugabe told a news conference that Mr. Nkomo, a minister without portfolio, had stockpiled weapons at strategic locations around the country in preparation for a coup. The other dismissed ministers were Transport Minister Josiah Chinamano, the deputy leader of ZAPU, and Natural Resources Minister Joseph Msika. Deputy Mines Minister Jini Mtshu was also fired. Earlier story on page 8.

Birzeit closure sparks West Bank protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Arabs on the occupied West Bank demonstrated Wednesday against the two-month closure of a Palestinian university.

Birzeit University near Ramallah was closed Tuesday by the Israeli military government which said university officials and students violated a previous undertaking to desist from anti-Israeli disturbances.

The decision to close the university for the second time in two months was taken after students blocked roads and stoned Israeli cars.

In Wednesday's protests, youths in Ramallah, Al Bireh, Nablus and the Kalandia refugee camp demonstrated on main roads and stoned passing Israeli vehicles. In Kalandia an Israeli military vehicle had all its windows smashed. Israeli security forces rushed to trouble spots and used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators.

In Ramallah and Al Bireh, shops remained closed after masked men threatened the owners with reprisals if they were opened, Arab sources said.

Meanwhile a general strike by Arab Druze residents on the recently-annexed Golan Heights entered its fourth day.

The strike was called in protest at the detention of four community leaders on charges of incitement against Israel.

Shops and schools stayed closed and only a few dozen workers

commuted to their jobs. The remainder of the 13,000-strong population stayed home.

Druze religious leaders have called on their people to strike until the four leaders are released and Israel rescinds its annexation of the heights last December. The area was first taken from Syria in the 1967 war.

Israeli Druze soldiers reopened two schools on the heights and were prepared to teach but no pupils turned up.

The four Druze leaders were detained without trial last Friday under emergency defence regulations after calling on the local population to boycott Israeli services over the annexation move.

Two Israeli soldiers in the military vehicle attacked in Kalandia refugee camp were wounded by flying glass and taken to hospital, military sources said.

At midday Israeli troops surrounded a teacher training college in Ramallah where the women students demonstrated in the yard and shouted anti-Israeli slogans.

In Battir village, near Bethlehem, children missed school to plant saplings on land the Israeli authorities confiscated earlier this week.

Students at Al Masri high school in Nablus burnt the principal's office on Tuesday night because they suspected him of cooperating with the 'new Israeli civil administration in the occupied West Bank, the military sources said.

Kuwait, Qatar conclude talks

DOHA (R) — The emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, returned home Wednesday from a three-day visit to Kuwait during which the two Gulf states called for a joint Arab strategy to confront Israel. A joint communiqué said the emir had agreed with Kuwait's Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah "on the urgent need for a serious and swift action to consolidate Arab solidarity."

Israel levies heavy taxes on Jerusalem merchants

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli customs authorities are launching a large-scale campaign in occupied Jerusalem to force Arab merchants and shopkeepers to pay excessive taxes on their incomes, according to the Jerusalem-based Arabic daily Al Ouds.

The paper said the heavy taxes imposed on Arab merchants and shopkeepers are sure to affect the consumers. These taxes are transforming these merchants into slaves barely benefiting from their toil because they have to pay the bulk of their profits to the tax collectors, the paper said.

According to the paper, the business in Jerusalem is now suffering from stagnation, inflation and high prices, in addition to insecurity and instability. The paper attributed the stagnation and high cost of living to the Israeli policy of linking Israel's economy with that of the occupied Arab territories. Rises in the price of fuel and basic commodities are making life miserable and unbearable for large sectors of the Arab population, while the Israelis themselves remain unaffected, since their government subsidises these rises for them, the paper added.

Corsicans bomb Paris

PARIS (A.P.) — Corsican nationalists early Wednesday claimed they planted 19 bombs which exploded during the night in Paris and Versailles, causing minor damage but no injuries, and three other which failed to explode.

The claim was made to the French news agency in the name of the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC), a tiny clandestine organisation which is more radical than existing legal autonomy movements.

The FLNC demands the end of "colonisation" of the island by mainland France.

In attacks it claimed last Sunday night in Corsica, one French foreign legion soldier was murdered and two other soldiers wounded, while 23 bombs were set off.

The organisation had declared a "truce" after the election of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand last May, awaiting socialist policy developments towards the island.

It called the new round of attacks did not break the truce but were a "warning" it was not happy with the policy as presented so far. The government is pushing thr-

ough a measure of regional self-government for Corsica which falls far short of the FLNC demands.

The FLNC has set several hundred bombs in Corsica and mainland France since it was created in 1976, on occasions laying as many as 80 in Corsica and 20 in Paris in one night.

Police said the bombs set on the night of Tuesday to Wednesday in the Paris region were of low power and had apparently been timed carefully to avoid causing injuries—a signature of the FLNC.

All its past bombings have been set in this way and only one case of a minor injury to a passer-by has been recorded.

The killing of the legionnaire in Corsica represented a major new escalation of violence by the group, and was disavowed by one branch of the movement in a communiqué issued on the island Wednesday.

The targets for the latest round of bombs included outside nine bank branches, telephone exchanges, a military building, post office and a shop. Damage was confined to broken windows.

Weinberger's tour heralds shift in U.S. views of Mideast threats

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is redirecting its military efforts in the Middle East, in the belief that internal subversion is more of a threat to friendly countries, and their oil, than Soviet attack, U.S. officials say.

Officials said this policy shift underpinned a 10-day visit by Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger to Saudi Arabia, Oman and Jordan which ended last week.

In talks with Arab leaders, Mr. Weinberger was said to have gone beyond decrying the Soviet threat in listing seaports and airfields that the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force would like to use during an emergency.

He also talked about what must be done to keep moderate governments in the Gulf region from being toppled by Muslim extremists, some of them homegrown

and some sent in from outside.

Many problems

Defence officials said this new agenda was forced upon the Reagan administration by a series of events during the past year, including the brief occupation of Chad by Libyan troops; the tripartite act signed by Libya, South Yemen and Ethiopia; the threat of the disintegration of the Somalia government; the assassination of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt by radicals within his own army, and the abortive coup attempt against the pro-Western government of Bahrain by Muslim extremists.

"All of this made a direct Soviet attack look like the least likely threat," said a Defence Department official in confirming that U.S. military efforts were being redirected in hopes of countering subversion of moderate governments in the Gulf, Middle East and Africa.

Although the Rapid Dep-

loyment Force will keep polishing contingency plans for combating Soviet thrusts against Gulf oil fields, Pentagon leaders were said to be preparing to work even more intensively to shore up friendly governments in the Indian Ocean theatre with direct aid.

Although the United States was asked to help by supplying modern weapons to needy states in the

News analysis

Indian Ocean regions, the Arab leaders Mr. Weinberger conferred with were said to have stressed that the need was much more than hardware.

They said economic assistance, not just weapons, was needed. In this connection, Mr. Weinberger and officials of Saudi Arabia said in a press conference that they would continue to give economic assistance to countries in the Gulf to help keep it stable.

In the Omani capital of Muscat, Defence officials said, Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id discussed the threats posed to nations in the regions. One such threat to Oman itself, the Sultan reportedly told Mr. Weinberger, was South Yemen.

The Sultan reportedly said he would like to have more modern weapons, but did not submit a specific shopping list and instead focused on threats from radicals in his Gulf area.

In talking about the threat from extremist groups, King Hussein and his aides were said to have focused on Iran and to have said it would be in the U.S. interest to open up a dialogue with Iraq. Although Mr. Weinberger said publicly that the administration would not take sides in the Iranian-Iraqi war, he did not rule out discussions with Baghdad.

Baghdad talks
A U.S. official travelling with Mr. Weinberger broadly hinted that the Jordanians had em-

phasised that Baghdad would welcome some kind of overture from Washington that would enable the two governments to open discussions, perhaps privately with no public announcement either before or after.

Mr. Weinberger seemed unbothered by the angry reaction of Israel to reports that the United States might be willing to sell Jordan anti-aircraft missiles and F-16 fighters.

"We need as many friends in the Middle East as we can get, not just Israel," he has said.

There was no suggestion during Mr. Weinberger's tour that he was going further than President Reagan desired in talking frankly and openly with Arab leaders.

It appeared that he succeeded in opening an intensive dialogue with Arab leaders as the administration sought to carry out its decision to redirect military efforts to conform to a new sense of priorities about the threats to Gulf oil.

NATIONAL

Hassan receives U.K. aide

By Samira Kassar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Visiting British Minister for Trade Peter Rees met on Wednesday with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The British minister's press secretary, Mr. David Woods, told the Jordan

Times that the minister had received from the Crown Prince a detailed briefing on Jordan's economic development.

Mr. Rees also met with Minister of Supply and Acting Minister of Industry and Trade Ibrahim Ayyoub, for discussions on Jordanian-British economic coo-

peration and trade relations, and ways to develop them.

He also met Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat and National Planning Council (NPC) President Hanna Odeh, who gave him a detailed account of Jordanian industry and its activities within the context of Jordan's current five-year development plan.

Dr. Odeh pointed out industrial sectors in which British industries could participate. Mr. Woods said. These included power generation, road transport, agricultural development, process plant development, health care and the training of Jordanian manpower. Mr. Woods said that the training of Jordanian staff to run sophisticated equipment and manage plants was a very important aspect of Jordanian-British economic cooperation.

Mr. Rees's talks with Jordanian officials had been very "constructive," Mr. Woods added. On returning to Britain, the minister and his delegation of British businessmen will spread among national and private British industries the information they have gained during their visit to Jordan, with a view to promoting those industries' participation in Jordanian economic development.

Mr. Rees will leave for Baghdad on Friday, and will return on Monday, Feb. 21, for talks with Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour. He will also meet with the chief executives of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Potash Company and the Jordan Electricity Authority.

King, Queen confer with Prime Minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor paid a visit to the Prime Minister Wednesday and met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi. At the meeting, a number of national issues were reviewed. The King gave the prime minister his directives on the subjects discussed, and asked that they be followed

up without fail. Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti attended part of the meeting, during which the areas where Jordanian women can offer their services to society were discussed. These covered social, humanitarian and developmental fields. Women's role in implanting noble values and high morale in the young generation was emphasised.

Alia to provide management for Sierra Leone Airways

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, will provide management services for the national carriers of Sierra Leone and Liberia, has the airline announced.

Alia's board of directors, at a meeting on Feb. 3, discussed invitations by the two countries to provide the services. Alia expects soon to enter into a management contract with Sierra Leone Airways, which will entail the secondment of Alia staff.

Meanwhile, Alia announced that a new issue of Alia bonds, worth JD 6 million, will be floated during March 1982. The proceeds will be used to prepay the outstanding balances of earlier Eurodollar loans, in an effort to reduce the cost of interest and risks involved in foreign exchange dealings.

Three financial institutions have already underwritten the amount, which will be offered to the public between March 1 and 31.

UNEP aide, minister meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani.

They discussed Jordan's participation in the UNEP's 10th anniversary celebration in May. On the anniversary the ministry will prepare national programmes and organise celebrations through the showing of documentaries on the Jordanian environment.

Later Thursday, King Hussein will attend a ceremony at Aqaba to celebrate the arrival of the cargo ship Mu'ta, which will form the nucleus of the commercial fleet of the Jordanian National Shipping Lines Company.

Yarmouk Force draws further acclaim, gifts

TAFIEH (Petra) — Tafieh District Wednesday expressed its support for His Majesty King Hussein's initiative to form a volunteer force to help Iraq in the Gulf War against Iran.

Speakers at a rally in Tafieh, attended by representatives of all public sectors and organisations, praised King Hussein's stand and urged their countrymen to enlist in the all-volunteer Yarmouk Force. They also condemned the Iranian-Israeli collaboration directed against the Arab Nation. Among the speakers were District Governor Tahat Nawayseh, Tafieh Mayor Suleiman Al 'Uran and National Consultative Council members, as well as representatives of youth clubs and business concerns in Tafieh.

Participants in the rally issued a communique voicing their whole-hearted support for King Hussein, and pledging to place all their resources at the disposal of the Yarmouk Force. A follow-up committee was set up, to coordinate enlistment and the collection of contributions for the force. Contributions announced at the rally amounted to JD 18,000.

At Wadi Musa, a preliminary meeting of mayors, heads of village councils and representatives of bedouin tribes in the district decided that a public rally should be held at Wadi Musa on Feb. 25, to express support for the King's initiative.

Meanwhile, Jordanian citizens and organisations continued to offer contributions to the Yarmouk Force. Wednesday's main contributors included the Jordan-French Insurance Co., which offered JD 18,000; the family of Saleh Al Mu'asher, JD 12,000; Sheikh Mifteh Al Mukheimer and Sons, JD 5,000; The Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factory Co., JD 3,000; Nuqul and Sons Co., JD 1,500, and Al D'ijeh tribes, JD 2,000.

199 hotels operating at end of 1981--Tourism Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Figures published by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities indicate that 199 licensed hotels were operating in Jordan at the end of 1981, having 5,709 rooms and 11,479 beds.

The ministry bulletin also showed that establishments classified as tourist establishments had a capacity of 4,008 rooms with 7,671 beds, in addition to 22 rest-houses and motels having 408 rooms with 806 beds.

Ministry officials said that 19 new hotels are expected to be opened in 1982. They will have 1,334 rooms, with 2,649 beds. The officials said that unclassified hotels totalled 109, having 1,279 rooms and 2,988 beds, at the end of 1981.

Meanwhile, it was announced on Tuesday that the tourism department at the ministry will in the next few days plant some 3,000 forest saplings in the Qatraneh and Ma'an areas, as part of the Arbor Day celebrations. The department organised a ceremony last Tuesday in Azraq to mark the occasion.

The ministry's Antiquities Department last year opened antiquities offices in Tafieh, Mafrqa and the northern and southern Jordan Valley. These areas include a total of 600 antiquities sites. The department has also expanded local antiquities inspectors' offices, and given them greater powers, together with the equipment and apparatus needed for their work.

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NATIONAL

New relationship between developed and developing countries

Jordan 'ably' absorbs EEC aid, uses it 'wisely' in development

By Dina Matar

Special to the Jordan Times

A WIDE RANGING co-operation agreement between Jordan and the Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC), has been in operation since 1977. Although the overall agreement is without time limit, certain aspects are renewed every five years. The general expression of co-operation and general trade concessions which the community grants to Jordan for Jordanian exports, continue from year to year, but the section dealing with technical assistance and financial aid, is renewed in a five-year cycle.

In the period 1977-1981 an aid package totalling 40 million ECU (about \$50 million) has been implemented. The commission uses a currency unit called an European Currency Unit (ECU), the value of which is dependent on the weighted value of the currencies of EEC member states at any time. The initial aid agreement is now being reviewed with a further allocation of 63 million ECU to Jordan, covering the next five years. Discussions will take place shortly with the National Planning Council (NPC) on the nature of the projects which will be supported under the coming programme.

According to EEC Delegate in Jordan Thomas O'Sullivan, the commission is anxious to promote a wide range of co-operation, entered into in a sense of partnership between institutions Jordanian and those of EEC member states. The actions, of course, are not only in the fields of trade and commerce, which are important to both parties, but also cover the fostering of deeper cultural relations and the development of links between institutions involved in education and technology.

The expressions of cooperation embodied in the agreements reflect a long-standing and deep-rooted relationship which has been developed between Jordan and the European countries throughout the history of the Kingdom.

In a similar way, the commission has entered into agreements with the other Arab countries of the Mediterranean region. These countries are the nearest neighbours of the community to the south and, of course, share the Mediterranean Basin with many member states. Each agreement reflects the long standing relationships with the community and its member states, which each country has, and are designed to foster a greater degree of interaction through the traditional cultural and trade relationships.

The agreement with Jordan expresses a sense of partnership and a recognition of mutual advantage to both parties in the development of closer relationships.

Within the general framework of the agreement, the community offers Jordan virtual free access to the European market for products which originate in this country. This access provides an advantage for Jordanian products which will be the output of new industries starting up within the country at the present time. Provision is also included for making technical and trade information available to Jordanian enterprises to enable them to progress rapidly in the first years of industrialisation.

Mr. O'Sullivan pointed out that under the first aid cycle practically all available funds had been committed to projects in diverse sectors of the economy of Jordan. For instance, loans from the European Investment Bank had been mainly devoted to the industrial sector, enabling new enterprises to be funded. In particular, a loan had been made for the construction of the Sahab Industrial Estate which was now well advanced as a project. A line of credit had been made available to the Industrial Development Bank for on-lending to small scale industrial enterprises and for tourism projects. A loan had also been given for extension of the electricity network in the Amman area, which would also be of benefit for industrial development. These loans had been made available at specially subsidised interest rates.

Mr. O'Sullivan said that for

luded for fostering links between the university in Jordan and other comparable universities in Europe.

'This mutual interdependence forges a new relationship and gives each of the partners its own authority, not only in trade and commerce, but also in the general forum of world politics.'

In a similar way, Yarmouk University is benefiting under the EEC programme, said Mr. O'Sullivan. "We are providing 2.5 million ECU to the university in order that additional equipment, much needed by the Faculty of Science, can be provided. There is also an allowance for technical assistance to the faculty to assist it in its first years of development."

By making available funds for the development of relationships between Jordanian universities and their European counterparts, it is hoped that long standing inter-university relationships will result, which will be of benefit to both parties.

It is also quite important that the programme to develop technicians and craftsmen skills within the country should receive support from the programme, said Mr. O'Sullivan. Two secondary industrial schools for the Ministry

were given great priority in the commission's considerations. He added that the agreement is "dynamic" in the sense that it is capable of continuous improvement based on the principles of interdependence, equality and joint management.

It is interesting to note that the cooperation agreement with Jordan is one of an extremely large number of agreements which are set within particular conventions tailor-made to suit the needs of particular parts of the world. Such overall conventions set out the principles of a new relationship between developed and developing countries. By far the largest such convention is the Lome Convention under which the community has a particular relationship with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The present convention, Lome II, was signed last year and is an example of the way in which programmes of cooperation with individual countries are set within an overall framework. Provision is made for the needs of each particular country by the development of a country programme. Provision also is made to cater for the state of development of each country, the structure of its economy and all-allowance for special or emergency situations. These relations are reflected in a contractual form which enables the countries to plan for the development process over a large number of years.

Special schemes have been evolved to take care of situations where countries' economies are dependent on single commodities, such as coffee, cocoa and so on, where variations in the world market price would have a disastrous effect on the overall economy. Under this system, called STABEX, a fund is made available to cover loss of revenue in bad years, these funds being repaid subsequently in years where better market conditions exist. Such a scheme was unique in the relationship between developed and developing countries and is a practical demonstration of the wish of the community to establish a new and more equitable relationship with the countries which are now developing their own resources and facilities.

The community's concern with the development of Third World countries, stems from its commitment to increase a sense of partnership. "These developing countries represent an important and lucrative market for the member states of the EEC, and in turn, the community's market is made accessible, and, therefore, becoming increasingly important to the developing countries," Mr. O'Sullivan said.

This mutual interdependence forges a new relationship and commerce, but also in the general forum of world politics. Dialogue with the Arab World was initially established through the Euro-Arab Dialogue, which set out to develop an overall relationship between the Arab League countries and those of the European Community. The policies and programmes of the dialogue are at present again being reviewed to take into account the priority needs of each of the partners.

The community had also begun a series of discussions with the Arab Gulf countries, exploring the development of conventions

covering the interests of both parties. "There is no doubt," said Mr. O'Sullivan, that the progress made with the cooperation programme in the last two years, "demonstrates Jordan's ability to absorb the aid available and to use it wisely in developing its own economy and its relationship with the member states of the community. There is no reason why even greater progress cannot be made in the next two years, taking into account the experience already obtained."

Defence order bans irrigation with waste

AMMAN (J.T.) — The military governor has issued a defence order aimed at preventing the cultivation of land watered with contaminated waste water, Al Ra'i newspaper reported on Wednesday.

It said the order stipulated that the minister of health shall decide which artesian wells, natural springs or other water sources are contaminated, and that the Zarqa River area, from the Ain Ghazal treatment station to the Zarqa bridge on the Jerash road, is considered an area watered with contaminated waste water. Lands irrigated with water from the river must be planted only with animal fodder or forest trees, the paper said. The minister of agriculture shall also decide what types of fruit trees may be planted in areas watered from uncontaminated wells, it added.

The defence order stressed, according to Al Ra'i, that those who violate these instructions shall be tried by the military court.



Nicholas James as nephew Jonathan, and John Alford as Dr. Einstein, attack Fizz Waters as Mortimer.

Brewster during the dress rehearsal of Arsenic and Old Lace

Curtain rises on Players' first production of 1982

By Meg Abu Hamdan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After an arduous preparatory period leading up to a successful dress rehearsal Tuesday evening, the Amman Players hit the boards Wednesday with their production of the comedy/thriller, Arsenic and Old Lace. Written by Joseph Kesselring, the play—despite its rather horrific central plot of murder and intrigue—is enormously funny, being as full of witticisms, double entendres and neat one-liners as anyone could wish.

It all revolves around two elderly Victorian-era sisters—Martha and Abbey Brewster—who are respected members of and well-known figures in their Brooklyn, New York community on account of their untiring charitable works. Their rather incredulous brand of philanthropy, carried out in all innocence, not only provides much of the play's humour but reveals a streak of family madness that also affects two out of their three nephews. In one it manifests itself harmlessly as delusions of grandeur. In the other—Jonathan—it is slightly more menacing. After a long absence from home this psychopathic killer and his accomplice, the sinister Dr. Einstein, return and force their company on

the apparently meek old ladies. But Jonathan's character analysis of his mild-mannered aunts is rapidly proven wrong, when what he finds in their cellar shocks even this hardened criminal.

The play, like all the Amman Players' previous productions but one, is directed by the indefatigable theatre veteran Mrs. Kitty Ephgrave, who founded the group back in 1976. After the success of their first production in February 1978 of William Brown's Girl in the Freudian Slip, the group have gone on to perform at least two plays a year ever since.

The aim of this international group of theatre enthusiasts and amateur actors is to establish and encourage English-language theatre in Jordan, "with the added aim of giving the proceeds to a

local charity," said this year's stage manager, Miss Pat Pengelly. Arsenic and Old Lace will benefit the Pontifical Mission to Palestine.

In a country where people are often moving on, the group's membership, except for a small nucleus, is never very stable. This year however their number was swollen by an influx of new members, and this was one of the reasons Arsenic and Old Lace was chosen to be the group's first production of 1982.

"The play has a large cast of 14," Mrs. Ephgrave said, "which includes a number of small parts. These provide ideal opportunities for the newcomers to act and gain experience."

The play runs until Saturday, Feb. 20.

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	Jordan's trade with the EEC			
	Export to the EEC		Imports from the EEC	
	000 ECU	Index	000 ECU	Index
1978	15,233	100	387,419	100
1979	17,992	118.1	531,052	137.1
1980	23,125	151.8	686,959	177.3

other projects money had made available as an outright grant and most of this money had gone to the important sector of education and training. This covered a wide range of levels of education from trade training to university level.

The biggest single project being undertaken was the provision of 6.68 million ECU which was allocated to the new Faculty of Engineering and Technology, at the University of Jordan. Mr. O'Sullivan said that, taking into account the investment already made by the country in the buildings for the faculty and the provision of a comprehensive range of equipment and technical assistance, within a few years the faculty would be one of the best engineering schools in the Arab World. It is important that under the programme, provision is made

of Education are being provided with full equipment for workshops, classrooms and general education areas, as well as technical assistance in the initial years of establishing the schools. These schools are to be built at Mafraq and Madaba. The Vocational Training Corporation has two centres planned for Amman and Zarqa and the community is, again, providing all the equipment required for these schools, as well as assistance in the implementation phase.

The development of technical services within the country to assist new industries in setting up is a major task of the Royal Science Society. The commission has provided almost a million ECU to pay for specialised equipment and to provide technical services such as experts and scholarship facilities for the society in its work.

A special fund has been set up to enable Jordanian students to attend special courses at various levels in Europe, and at the present time there are some 30 Jordanians benefiting under this programme.

The development and the implementation of these projects has practically all taken place since the EEC office was established in Jordan in 1980. "It has been possible to establish good working relationships with Jordanian institutions at an early stage and this has enabled the rapid progress which has taken place in the last two years to be accomplished. It is very heartening for the delegation staff to work in an environment where such progress can be made and where every opportunity for improvement is willingly grasped by the Jordanian side. We really look forward to seeing how quick the next phase of the aid programme progresses in 1982," Mr. O'Sullivan said.

He pointed out that because the agreement is for an unlimited period, there is a stable contractual framework for making long-term planning decisions. He explained that projects which resulted in far

Arab League trade with the EEC (1980)		
in 000 ECU		
Country	Exports to the EEC	Imports from the EEC
Egypt	1,745,979	3,105,382
Iraq	7,908,791	3,816,074
Lebanon	43,985	1,032,286
Saudi Arabia	24,520,191	7,282,557
Syria	930,155	1,244,897
Jordan	23,125	686,959
North Yemen	6,631	339,736
Libya	6,373,227	4,145,914
Sudan	166,124	473,242
Morocco	1,168,766	1,478,845
Tunisia	1,098,031	1,541,312
Kuwait	4,035,991	1,473,805
Algeria	4,026,938	4,710,301
South Yemen	76,164	143,428
Bahrain	57,089	322,911
Qatar	1,474,652	392,070
United Arab Emirates	4,374,681	2,078,955
Oman	351,580	393,838
Mauritania	142,772	130,150
Somalia	19,157	209,719
Djibouti	6,484	72,946
Total	58,550,513	35,875,326

EEC trade with the Arab League member states in million ECU										
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Exports	3707.6	4341.8	3648.5	10481.3	15285.8	18949.4	23514.0	24869.5	29228.9	35082.0
Imports	9313.0	9383.9	12000.5	29228.9	23064.8	31703.4	32682.7	28335.6	40600.0	58328.7
Trade balance	-5605.4	-5042.1	-8356.7	-18747.6	-8778.8	-12754.0	-9168.3	-4666.1	-11371.1	-23246.7
Index										
Exports	110	128	167	340	481	561	696	736	864	1036
Imports	118	119	152	389	317	401	413	373	513	739
Exports/Imports %	39.8	46.3	47.0	35.9	60.8	59.8	71.9	84.2	72.0	59.8

INTERNATIONAL AUCTION

SPARE PARTS/CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

ARAMCO DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

MARCH 28, 29, 30, 1982 8:00 A.M.

NEW SPARE PARTS	EQUIPMENT
CATERPILLAR Pump assemblies, piston assemblies, fuel pumps, crankshafts, cutting edges, cylinder heads, cylinder block assemblies, blade push arms part No. 618782, differentials, turbochargers, transmission assemblies part No. 279600, 279601, 693780, track rail assemblies part No. 279428 with and without pads, suspensions, No. 95 and 96 dozer blades, hydraulic ripper No. 9, rebuilt engine D243.	CRANES 1-Clark/Lima 150 ton Crawler Crane 2-American Hoist 100 ton Crawler Crane 1-American Hoist 1000 ton Lift Winch w/Booms 1-Lorain 115 ton Truck Crane 1-American Hoist 50 ton Truck Crane 3-Grove RT85 18 ton Hydraulic Cranes 1-Grove RT55 14 ton Hydraulic Crane 1-Austin Western Hydraulic Crane
AMERICAN CRANE Hub assemblies, main transmission, lead assemblies, cylinder assemblies, transmission housings, drive chains, brake assemblies, clutch assembly, roller bearings and seals, joint assembly part No. 718380 travel assembly, boom clutch assembly, roller assemblies, swing shafts, torque converter part No. X-208679L, part No. 621344, sprockets, part No. 1324128, radiators, track links, tunnel bearings, control valves, large quantities of boom fittings.	CRAWLER TRACTORS & LOADERS 1-Caterpillar D8H Dozer 1-John Deere JD-450C Dozer 1-Cas 450H Dozer 1-John Deere JD350 Crawler Loader
CLARK-LIMA CRANE Gaskets, diaphragms, gals, oil catchers, adjusting rings, drive plates, bearings, relief valves, rotor seals, bearing, air cylinder, hub and back plates, swing assembly, shaves, color, hydraulic motor, job stops, clutch, bolts, ratchometers.	WHEEL LOADERS & FORKLIFTS 1-John Deere 644B Wheel Loader 1-Alco Chalmers 840B Wheel Loader 1-Cat Diesel & Electric Forklifts 2-Hyster H50H Diesel Forklifts
GROVE CRANE Drive shaft, propeller shaft, axle, cylinder barrels, cable drum hoist, fender, tank, door, window assemblies, rear axle, brake assembly, clutch assembly, roller bearings, connecting rods, valve assembly, rollers, pins, seal body, swing assembly, regulators.	AIR COMPRESSORS 1-Jay DVC 800 CFM 1-Gardner Denver SPDC 750 CFM 1-Ingersoll Rand 750 CFM 1-Ingersoll Rand DRC 600 CFM
P&H CRANE Hydraulic pumps, brake shoe sets, bearing sets, windshield glass, relief valves, solenoid valves, cushions, radiators, clutch plate, oil seals, seal kits, mechanical pumps, connecting rods, valve assembly, rollers, pins, seal body, swing assembly, regulators.	WELDER GENERATORS & MISC. 4-Miller & Lincoln Diesel Welders 15-Portable Generators & Light Plants Large quantities of threading machines, tools, pumps, jacks, hammers, pipe benders, air track drills.
FIAT ALLIS Track rollers, idlers, rail links, bucket teeth, corner bits, drive chains, clutch assemblies, turbochargers, torque converters part No. 7082425, 068310-8, transmission part No. 7088448, 7074488, 705564028, alternators, pistons, engine part No. 74321428 model 11008 MK11, crankshafts.	TRUCK & TRAILERS 5-Chevrolet & GMC C-80 Flatbed Trucks 3-Mercedes-Benz/Lincoln Lubrication Trucks 15-Mercedes-Benz/Lincoln Lubrication Trucks 8-Hino, Brockway, Kenworth Dump Trucks 3-Chevrolet & Kenworth Fuel Trucks 6-International Utility Trucks 2-Kenworth Fuel Trucks 1-J&J Dry Bulk Trailer 1-Titan, Hobbie, & Pullman Flatbed Trailers 5-Pope Dolly Trailers
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OTHER SPARE PARTS INCLUDE John Deere, Komatsu, Case, Clark, Sullair Gardner Denver Bros, Hyster, Dynapac, Volkswagen, Deere, Kenworth, Hino, Mercedes, Mack, Brockway, Chevrolet, Complex Commins, WTC 350, and 400 Diesel Engines. Many Gasoline Engines.	TERMS The sale will be held in Arabic using Saudi Arabian Riyal valuations. Interpreters will be available to assist buyers. All sales will be to the highest bidder. Payment shall be in Saudi Arabian Riyals or United States Dollars at the conversion rates specified by Aramco on the date of the sale. Acceptable forms of payment are cash and/or certified checks. Payment by a company or person other than the bidder must be accompanied by proof of identity and an irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee acceptable to the auctioneer. All negotiable instruments including irrevocable letters of credit or bank guarantee shall be written in Arabic and English. Each bidder will be required to make a 20% deposit after each bid award and will be required to make 100% payment the last day of sale. If the successful bidder pays the bid deposit but does not subsequently complete the transaction by making full payment and executing the required sales documents, the sum will be re-offered for sale and the bid deposit will be forfeited by the bidder. Detailed terms covering the auction may be obtained by contacting the office. Any changes will be covered by auctioneer on date of sale.
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Responsible Editor:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor:
RAMI G. KHOURI

Managing Editor:
MAAZ D. SHUKAYR

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Amazin'!

THE LETTER sent by United States President Ronald Reagan to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin two days ago is a document that should be included in the Great Hall of the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum. It is, all in all, a rather astounding piece of work. Mr. Reagan assures Mr. Begin that the United States is "determined to see that Israel's qualitative technological edge is maintained," and later on in the same letter says that "Israel remains America's friend and ally. However, I believe it is in the interest of both our countries for the United States to enhance its influence with other states in the region." As the famous American baseball manager Casey Stengel would have said, if he were alive today: Amazin'!

The underlying contradiction in the American desire to keep Israel as the strongest Asian power since Genghis Khan while also improving ties with Arab states is, in the end, incompatible, intellectually untenable and beyond the comprehension of those of us who have been, and would like to remain, friends and partners of the United States in our common quest for a life of peace, dignity and prosperity for all our people. But how can even we so-called "moderates" remain unoffended and unastounded in the face of such basic contradictions as have been so clearly spelled out in Mr. Reagan's letter to Mr. Begin?

If the American people are willing to be abused by this sort of nonsense, the people of Jordan and the Arab World are not. The problem at hand is not Jordan's arms or Israel's security. The problem is a woefully contradictory American policy in the Middle East that cannot limp along much further on its present false basis. If American policymakers do not understand this fact, Arab policymakers do.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

U.S. scrapes and grovels to Israel

AL RA'I: The U.S. administration, including President Reagan, has hastened to reassure Israel that the United States has no intention of supplying Jordan with advanced weapons and that Washington is very careful to see that Israel is always the strongest in quality and quantity.

Washington wants to reassure Israel that traditional U.S. policies in the region will continue. This confirmation is the result of the Israeli fury which has accompanied news reports on the possibility that the United States might supply Jordan with mobile missiles and F-16 fighters.

Whether these U.S. statements constitute a retraction by the United States to negotiate such a deal and whether they have been made to deny what has been rumoured about such a deal, the result remains the same: Jordan will remain determined to secure the safety of its land and airspace by all possible means. It is needless to say that this commitment is a firm national and pan-Arab duty which rests solely on Jordan's decision. U.S.-Israeli relations will never influence Jordan's decision to carry out its sacred duties towards its land and airspace and those of the Arab Nation. The execution of these duties is an integral part of Jordan's sovereignty and national and pan-Arab commitment.

The Israeli military supremacy has always been behind Israel's bellicosity in the region and this means that tension and instability will continue to prevail. The U.S. commitment to keep up this Israeli supremacy must be met by an Arab commitment to build Arab strength by all possible means in order to effect a strategic balance capable of deterring the Israeli aggressors.

Is the U.S. really independent?

AL DUSTOUR: The United States has declared that it has not changed its policy towards Israel and that it has no plans to sell sophisticated weapons to Jordan. U.S. President Ronald Reagan has stressed his country's determination to defend Israel's security. He has also stressed that U.S. promises to Israel are a basic principle of the U.S. policy in the Middle East.

This response to the Israeli noise has been expected since the beginning. We have grown accustomed to see the United States step back a mile after every time it steps one inch towards the Arabs because of Zionist pressure and influence that controls the successive U.S. administrations. We have seen Washington abandoning the U.S.-Soviet declaration on the Middle East and former President Carter retracting his statement on a homeland for the Palestinians. We have seen a great many examples.

We are now witnessing a humiliating U.S. retraction in the face of the Israeli campaign and Menachem Begin's threats. Washington hastened to stress its commitment and determination to protect Israel's security pledging to keep its promise guaranteeing the quality and quantity of Israel's military supremacy. This issue has turned into a test of 'strength' between Washington and Tel Aviv because Jordan, as the U.S. Defence Secretary admitted, has not asked to buy U.S. weapons. Washington has flunked the test.

What has happened should teach the Arabs a lesson. The Arabs have to reassess their stand and their dealings with the United States in light of the result of the clash between Washington and Tel Aviv. The United States is always ready to succumb to Israel at the expense of its own interests and even if it jeopardises world peace and security.

RED & BLACK

To have a greasy dream

By Jawad Ahmad

When I cannot concentrate on the real problems I face in my daily life, I drift to the world of fantasy. So, I rested my head on the pillow to dream.

That night I turned on the radio to help send me to sleep and while dozing off I heard the announcer interrupt a nice song and state that he has just received the news that Jordan is now blessed with oil. A well has been discovered near the town of "Ahmar", and Jordan will be able to produce three million barrels a day.

Not waiting to check the authenticity of the news, I let my imagination run wild:

Jordan became a member of OPEC. The Jordanian Minister of Oil and Electricity takes his private plane to attend the ministerial OPEC meeting in Vienna. Despite minor differences, the conference agrees that the new price of oil should remain affixed at \$34/barrel.

I began to count money using approximations. Thirty four multiplied by three million is equal to roughly \$100 million which is roughly JD 30 million which means about JD 11 billion a year. This final figure constitutes Jordan's annual oil proceeds. However, I must subtract from this figure Arab aid which will stop, and I must add \$500 million which are equal to Jordan's oil import bill, subtract about JD one billion in donations granted by Jordan to other Arab and Third World countries. No matter how we count, the net proceeds will not be less than JD 10 billion a year.

The cabinet should meet tomorrow in order to review the annual budget before it is submitted to the National Consultative Council. Moreover, the National Development Board should introduce major changes in the current 5-year development plan. To spend only JD 3.3

billion in four years would certainly sound ridiculous.

The minister of transportation suggests that we should cancel the Public Transportation Corporation. No one would want to take buses any more. The Minister of Supply says that the civil service consumer corporation would close very soon because nobody wants to buy from it anymore.

The director of Amman financial market has almost gone crazy at the rise in the prices of shares. The minister of Social Development proposes that there are certain families who earn less than JD 10,000 a year and they must be aided.

The Minister of Labour complains that nobody wants to remain a labourer. We have become a country of businessmen and thus we must import 0.5 million people from abroad.

Poor Alia people are not able to comply with the heavy demand for seats on the planes. The new airport is too small and we must build a new one.

Arab oil countries are seeking the help of Jordan to convince Jordanians working abroad to stay there. They have trebled their salaries and offered them citizenship but they insist on returning to Jordan.

The American Senate votes 60 to 40 in favour of selling Jordan advanced war machinery. The list of dignitaries from other countries wishing to visit Jordan is endless. Israel threatens to attack Jordan's oil fields, but the world at large stands in defiance.

I woke up to see that the radio was crackling. The kids are still asleep. The rain is pouring outside. So we have not struck oil but, thank God for the rain.



Europe alarmed by Reagan

By Sidney Weiland

LONDON — Western Leaders have arranged to meet during five days in June to grapple with a long list of problems troubling the United States and its European allies.

President Reagan will be making his first trip to Europe after 16 months in the White House, and several key players in Western diplomacy will be engaging in large-scale summitry for the first time.

"There will certainly be no shortage of problems to talk about," a senior official of the 15-nation NATO alliance says.

The Reagan presidency has been plagued by what both U.S. and European diplomats describe as a rising tide of "misperception" across the Atlantic — over America's nuclear strategy, Poland, arms negotiations, trading rivalry and high U.S. interest rates.

West European officials report widespread satisfaction in allied capitals that Mr. Reagan has decided to stay on in Europe for a NATO meeting after attending a Western economic summit at Versailles, near Paris.

The economic summit from June 4-6 is an annual fixture on the Western calendar and brings together top leaders from the West's seven most powerful industrial nations, the U.S., Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy and Japan.

Unusually, six of the government chiefs — all except Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki — will move almost automatically into a full-scale NATO summit.

The only break between the two meetings will involve a one-day trip to Rome by Mr. Reagan to meet Pope John Paul.

U.S. and European officials are reluctant to say who took the initiative in suggesting an infrequent NATO summit — likely to be held at alliance headquarters in Brussels — to take advantage of the president's stay in Europe.

All they will say is that all 15 NATO governments thought it was "extremely useful" to meet. By June, there may be 16 NATO nations if arrangements for Spanish entry are completed in time.

Diplomats believe much of the subject matter at both the eco-

nomics and NATO summits will merge, giving the leaders an unusually long period together to debate Atlantic concerns.

Although no clear agenda headings have emerged so far, the first NATO summit for four years could involve a deep rethinking of alliance strategy and goals.

The White House says Mr. Reagan regards the two-day NATO meeting "as an opportunity for the North Atlantic Alliance to shape its response to this decade's challenges."

Mr. Reagan, French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will be attending a NATO summit for the first time, as will the prime ministers of Belgium, Greece, Italy and several other countries.

If any single issue sparked interest in calling the meeting, Western officials say it was probably the uneven and hesitant response of NATO's European members following the imposition of military rule in Poland nearly two months ago.

Although Western leaders hope martial law in Poland will have been lifted by June, they expect the Polish crisis and Western reaction to it will still be key issues for discussion.

Officials believe Mr. Reagan and West European leaders have much to gain from a thorough airing of problems that have caused almost constant strain in the alliance during the past year.

Apart from Poland, they include:

European concern over hard-line U.S. attitudes to the Soviet Union.

European worries over the U.S. commitment to arms control.

Widely varying assessments of the communist role in Central America.

The Polish crisis touched raw nerves on both sides of the Atlantic only a few months after a budding row over disarmament was side-stepped when Mr. Reagan agreed to open negotiations with Moscow over European-based nuclear missiles.

The Reagan administration has failed in a year-long effort to get Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Mr. Mitterrand to back out of a multi-million-dollar pipeline project to carry Soviet gas to West

Germany and France.

U.S. policy over El Salvador is expected to be increasingly challenged. Some West European leaders fear U.S. military involvement in what they see potentially as "another Vietnam."

France has agreed to sell arms to the leftist government of Nicaragua despite Washington charges of Nicaragua's complicity in helping to ship communist arms to insurgents in El Salvador. Canada has criticised U.S. aid for El Salvador's ruling junta.

West European countries are cutting aid to Turkey — a NATO member — in protest against Ankara's military regime, while the U.S. plans increased support for the Turkish army.

Friction over trading practices has grown in recent months, with the U.S. accusing European suppliers of dumping steel on the American market and undercutting U.S. farm exports. Both sides have threatened trade restrictions.

A senior official of the 10-nation European Economic Community said last week that the U.S. and the EEC were closer to a global trade conflict than at any time since World War II.

Western Europe and the U.S. remain divided over high U.S. interest rates which Europeans say affect their economic growth.

This problem dominated the last Western economic summit in Ottawa last July, and is likely to provoke renewed European protests at this year's meeting. A U.S. spokesman said last week that Mr. Reagan had no plans to cut interest rates.

Greece's Socialist Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreu, has struck out on a staunchly independent course since he won power last October, threatening to break military ties with NATO and refusing to join NATO sanctions over Poland.

Mr. Mitterrand has questioned the continued validity of the 1945 Yalta agreement which laid the basis for the division of Europe into two blocs, and Mr. Schmidt has said East-West dialogue must go on despite U.S. insistence that the Polish crisis makes "business as usual" impossible.

Anti-nuclear protests have helped fuel a belief in the Reagan camp that neutralist and anti-American tendencies are growing

in Europe, although this is denied by European leaders.

Reagan aides have dropped broad hints that resistance to U.S. policies could be exploited by isolationists who would like the 375,000 American troops in Western Europe brought home.

While West European officials generally welcomed Mr. Reagan's election after what was widely seen as four years of foreign policy vacillation under President Carter, many are now worried that so much misunderstanding has developed in the past year.

The London Times said Mr. Reagan's trip to Europe was good news but questioned whether it would be enough "to reverse the dangerous tide of anti-American sentiment in Western Europe."

The newspaper said the Polish crisis highlighted what it called a deep weakness in the Western alliance, that "there is insufficient trust in American leadership."

Former U.S. Under-Secretary of State George Ball, writing in the Washington Post, said Europeans "no longer trust American judgement and good sense" and are "alarmed by the Reagan administration's compulsive flow of tough talk."

He said Western Europe would support the U.S. "only if convinced that Americans know where they are going and that they are not heading toward war through overcommitment to a simplistic ideology."

Arms not the question

By Tareq Masarweh

We are not annoyed by this Zionist campaign waged against a rumoured advanced U.S. weapon deal for our army because blackmail is a Zionist trait and capitulation to this blackmail is ordinary U.S. behaviour.

In principle we buy our own weapons. This is because the Arabs have made it possible for us not to seek foreign aid which made us suffer bitterly. We have explained to the Americans here and in Washington a number of facts on armament of which the following are but some:

1. We like to deal with Washington as an international source of weapons at current market prices.
2. When buying weapons from the United States, we do not consider ourselves as part of the U.S. strategy in the region.

We understand the dimensions of "friendship" with the United States and the influence of U.S.-Israeli relations on other relations between the United States and any other state in this region. We have the Egyptian example of this kind of "friendship". After seven years of Sadat's playing Washington's man, after three years of signing the Camp David agreements and after 10 years of separation from Moscow, the Egyptian army has not received more than 40 U.S. M-60 tanks and a single F-16 plane. This fact has been offered not by us but by U.S. newspapers. Washington wants to establish a balance of military strength between Israel and all the Arab states stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf. Washington also wants, at the same time, to mobilise the Arabs against the Soviet Union!

How? A thousand ways: some of which consist of selling the Arabs arms to be delivered seven years later, the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, and most important of all, of course, is the Arabs' kneeling to Zionist aggression.

And we return to the old-new story. Armament is not the Arabs' main problem because people who are determined to make a strong and respected future for themselves will find a way like the people of Vietnam who defeated the U.S. omnipotence itself. Weapons are not the problem. The arms that the Arabs possess now are capable of doing a great deal if they are mobilised in the conflict with Israel. Israel is strong because of our weakness and disunity. The United States enjoys such a great influence because of our subservience and impotence.

How can a nation rise when its citizens deal with each other as we do? Is there a nation in this world that accepts defeat as we do without going to war and then boast and brazenly say we are victorious heroes? Is there a people except us who slay their own with guns, tanks and planes and do not fight the enemy occupying their lands?

Arms are not the question. The question is the paralysed hand that must carry the weapon.

Enter the hawk

By Larry Thorson
The Associated Press

most important committee, the foreign affairs and security committee.

He is a blunt advocate of a hard line in peace negotiations with the Arabs.

"My view and that of the Israeli government is that we cannot make any concessions beyond what we've already made in the Camp David agreements," Arens recently told a group of foreign correspondents.

Here are some of his other views:

— On Israel's security and U.S. arms sales to the Arabs: "The United States and President Reagan had a commitment to maintain the quality edge of Israel (military) equipment. But this quality edge is in the process of being eroded and cannot be restored as long as the United States pursues a policy of selling its best equipment to the Arabs."

— On the anti-Soviet strategic cooperation agreement that collapsed after Israel annexed the Golan Heights: "When we get to that point that both Washington and Tel-Aviv feel that it is a good deal for both countries, then the agreement will be revived, and I hope we get to that point."

— On a possible U.S. treaty guarantee of Israel's security: "Not really in favour of that... It might create an optical illusion that Israel's security can and should be guaranteed by U.S. military forces... I think that we are dependent on ourselves."

— On whether he, as a former American, would have any problems of loyalty in Washington: "My loyalty is singular and it's Israeli, and I think everybody understands that."

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SPORTS

Ipswich bounces back to form, stuns leaders Southampton

LONDON (A.P.) — Ipswich Town, which roared back into championship contention with a 5-2 midweek victory over Southampton, Saturday faces a stern task away to resolute Leeds United.

Ipswich, which has five games in hand over leader Southampton, recovered after a series of defeats that had seen it swamped by Liverpool and knocked out of both the FA Cup and the League Cup. Alan Brazil, dropped 10 days earlier, was the man who boosted Ipswich's diminishing confidence. He rattled all five goals against Southampton, and without the aid of his injured strike partner Paul Mariner.

Ipswich manager Bobby Robson said: "He must be the best finisher in the country. He was mesmerising."

Brazil, who is forging a new partnership with South African Mich d'Avray in Mariner's absence, will be looking to continue in the same vein against Leeds' uncompromising defenders at Elland

Road.

But while Southampton did not mark tightly at the back, Leeds' hard man Kenny Burns is unlikely to make the same mistake.

Shell-shocked Southampton, meanwhile, will have a chance to recover from Tuesday's mauling with a home first division match against out-of-form West Ham, a team which has recorded only two away victories this season.

Second-placed Manchester United and third-placed Arsenal meet at Old Trafford in the top match of the day.

Arsenal are in championship contention despite averaging less than a goal a game, and United captain Ray Wilkins will not be underestimating the London team.

"Arsenal are called 'boring' but what they are really are is superbly organised," said Wilkins. "They are a team who are hard to break down and are always likely to kill you off with a breakaway goal."

One player looking forward to the match is United striker Frank

Stapleton, who was sold by Arsenal during the close season.

Liverpool, currently in superb form, should further boost its championship challenge by recording a home victory against hapless Coventry City. Coventry lost 1-5 at home to Notts County in midweek.

Of the other championship contenders, Swansea is away to Sunderland while Manchester City and Tottenham meet at White Hart Lane in a repeat of last season's FA Cup final.

Sunderland manager Alan Durban, worried about the lack of fight shown by his relegation threatened team, has called for extra effort, but the Roker Park team won't find it easy against a Swansea side stabilised by recent signing Ray Kennedy.

Tottenham manager Keith Burkinshaw has a pleasant problem. His team is playing so well that he cannot find a place for Scottish international striker Steve Archibald, the club's top scorer last season.

Sri Lanka's inaugural cricket test begins

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's fortunes fluctuated sharply in their inaugural cricket test and they were 183 for eight at the end of the opening day of the five-day match against England Wednesday.

Sri Lanka, granted test status by the International Cricket Conference (ICC) last July, recovered in style after a dismal start only to be rocked by a four-wicket burst from left arm spinner Derek Underwood.

The country's President, Janis Jayawardene, and cricket officials marked the significant occasion by lighting a traditional coconut oil lamp.

Sri Lanka captain Bandula Warnapura used a special gold coin for the toss but after he won it the island slumped to 34 for four on an easy-paced pitch.

Arjuna Ranatunge, 18, inspired a recovery by hitting 54 and put on 99 for the fifth wicket with Ranjan Madugalle, who was top scorer with an unbeaten 64.

Dispute arises over Taiwan flag, anthem

PEKING (R) — A new problem arose Wednesday over China's participation in the Women's World Softball Championship in Taipei in July when a Chinese sports official said here that the Taiwanese flag and national anthem would not be acceptable to Peking.

An official from the sports and physical cultural mission told reporters that the Taiwanese flag and anthem would be unacceptable. She said that when China joined the International Softball Federation (ISF) last May, it was decided that the Taiwan Softball Association would be renamed the China Taipei Softball Association and that it would also change its flag and anthem.

Don Porter, American Secretary-General of the ISF, announced in Taipei Tuesday that the Chinese-Taipei Association would invite a Chinese team to compete in the championship, from July 2 to 11. Earlier there had been speculation that Taiwan might forfeit the event rather than invite a Chinese team to Taiwan for the first time since 1949.

Larry Holmes names alternatives to Cooney

LAS VEGAS (R) — Larry Holmes, the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion, says he may fight in the interim if his March 15 title bout against number one contender Gerry Cooney is postponed.

Cooney has a sore shoulder muscle and the match seems likely to be put back until May at the earliest.

Holmes said Tuesday he would be disappointed if the multi-million-dollar fight was postponed.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN

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Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 95
♥ AK93
♦ 963
♣ AK73

WEST
♠ 10732
♥ 10
♦ 8752
♣ J1042

EAST
♠ AQ8
♥ QJ54
♦ AJ4
♣ 985

SOUTH
♠ KJ64
♥ 8762
♦ KQ10
♣ Q6

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 NT Pass
4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Two of ♠.

One sure trait of a bridge expert is his table presence—the ability to "sniff out" the lie of the cards.

South was the Israeli internationalist Shmuel Lev, and the hand was played in the European Championship.

Once the 4-4 heart fit was uncovered, it became very difficult to reach three no trump—the best contract as the cards lie. As a matter of fact, four hearts was the contract at both tables of the Sweden-Israel match, and

the Swedish declarer went down one—he lost two aces and two trump tricks.

Against the Israeli auction, West led a low diamond. East won the ace, cashed the ace of spades and reverted to the jack of diamonds. Declarer won the king and, when a trump to the king fetched the ten from West, he suspected that it was a singleton. He had only a slight clue to guide him—East's inordinate hurry to cash the ace of spades suggested that he thought he was looking at enough tricks to defeat the contract, and those tricks could only be in trumps.

Declarer decided to base his play on the odds-against chance that trumps were going to divide 4-1. If the cards lay well, he would be able to nullify East's presumed trump holding. He cashed the queen of diamonds and three high clubs. Next came the king of spades, followed by a spade ruff. Now dummy's last club was led.

A surprised East found that he could make only one trump trick. He was down to the Q-J-5 of trumps. If he ruffed low, declarer would over-ruff and cash the ace of hearts. Ruffing high would be equally unavailing. East would be left on lead with Q-5 in trumps. That would force him to lead into dummy's K-9 tenace, again limiting him to one trump trick.

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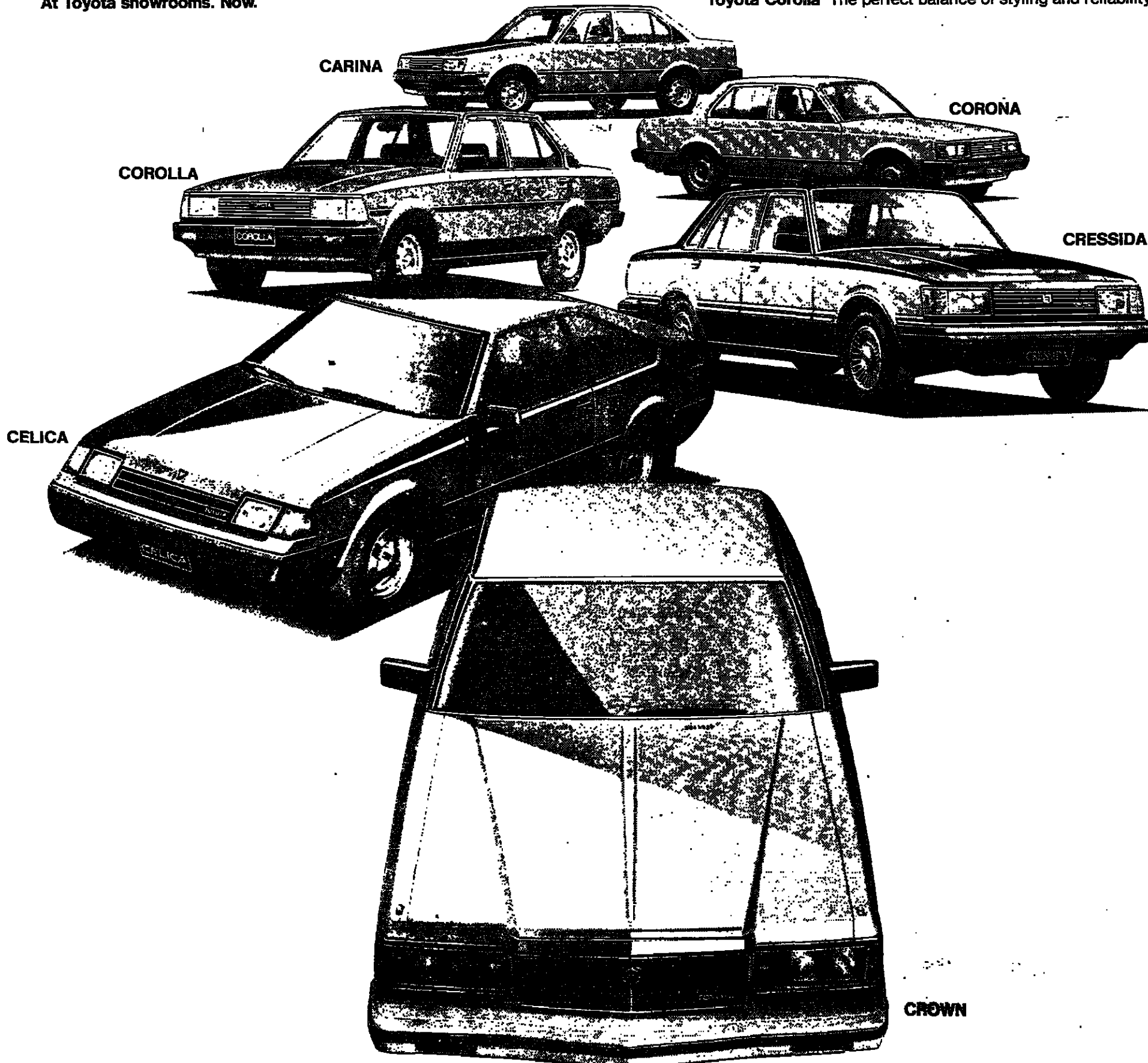
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FEATURES

Hollywood changes methods for 1980s

By Ronald Clarke
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood, once considered the fading glamour girl of the entertainment industry, is being deluged with millions of big business dollars.

The reason may rest more in television, which gave the cinema box office its biggest battering, than in the cinema, according to film industry analysts.

Studio officials are banking on the rapidly-growing pay television industry, which charges people to watch films on their home television sets, becoming a giant moneymaker.

They also regard video cassettes as a growing seller. "We still don't know whether the market lies in selling or renting cassettes, but one thing is certain — in five years' time there will be a big demand for them," an executive of 20th Century-Fox studio said.

Some industry analysts estimate these two markets will bring in a billion dollars a year by 1985. Film trade unions are insisting their new labour contracts have a clause guaranteeing their members a share of this revenue.

There has been a series of takeovers and reshuffles. The board of directors of Columbia pictures has approved a takeover offer of \$750 million by the soft drink firm Coca-Cola.

An oil millionaire, Marvin Davis, who had not had a day's film experience, paid \$800 million last June for 20th Century-Fox.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer bought another major studio, United Artists, last July for \$380 million.

Avco Embassy pictures, one of the smaller studios, was sold to television producer Norman Lear and financier Jerry Perenchio this month for \$25 million.

Most people in these studios have welcomed the takeover as a new source of money for their organisations. The chairman of Coca-Cola, Roberto Goizueta, said entertainment was an excellent area for profitable growth.

It is early days, but so far there have been no public complaints of big business tactics curtailing artistic freedom.

Columbia, one of the most profitable studios, has a library of 3,000 films and 10,000 television programmes and these could be a big profit-maker in pay television and cassettes.

Columbia, whose blockbuster hit, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* enabled the studio to record a record annual profit of \$69 million in September 1978, has had a number of recent box office successes. They include *Kramer vs. Kramer*, starring Dustin Hoffman, *Star Wars* and *Stripes*.

Although a film producer can make a fortune if he chooses the right subject at the right time for a film, he can just as easily lose a fortune.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, whose stock in trade used to be big musicals, bought United Artists after United was saddled with one of Hollywood's biggest financial flops, the \$40-million *Heaven's Gate*.

Once touted as the *Gone with the Wind* of Westerns, the film, starring Kris Kristofferson, was savaged by the film critics, re-edited and brought back for a second showing. It appeared only briefly before disappearing into the studio vaults.

But United Artists, mainly a financial backer and distributor of films, had the rights to many of the James Bond films and such classics as *Casablanca*, starring Humphrey Bogart — all good sellers for pay television and cassettes.

Mr. Davis, who has an obsession for privacy which has earned him the nickname the new Howard Hughes, has revealed an extra reason for buying 20th Century-Fox — its 63 acres (25 hectares) of expensive studio space in the centre of Los Angeles.

He said in a newspaper interview he intends to move the film and television stages to a new centre in about two years.

The \$450,000-a-year chief executive, Dennis Stanfill, departed three weeks after Mr. Davis bought the studio. Mr. Davis also named two old friends, former president Gerald Ford and former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger, to the board.

But a 35-year-old former actress, Sherry Lansing, is still film chief and studio officials said the production schedule has not been changed.

A 20th Century-Fox executive, Michael Nolan, said he had been involved in a film which was made in Australia where there were tax incentives. The studio was interested in laying off risk, he said.

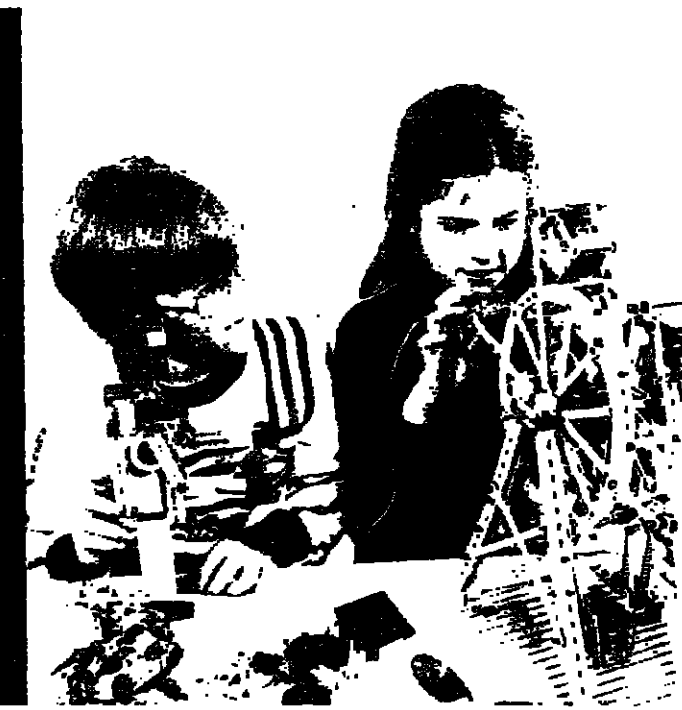
A film analyst said an attraction of the film industry, unlike in the case of a car maker, was that a studio could decide with a wide range how much it would spend on a film.

"You can pay a star three million dollars for making a film or you can go without the star and concentrate on special effects, which will cost you half a million dollars," the analyst said.

Some of the biggest moneymakers of last year, including *Superman II* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, relied mainly on effects. Paramount Studio, which distributed *Raiders*, said the film had already taken in more than \$170 million dollars at the box office.

Variety, which reports on the entertainment industry, said the number of tickets sold at U.S. cinema box offices each year has remained in the billion range for the past 20 years — after the initial impact of television.

A difference for girls

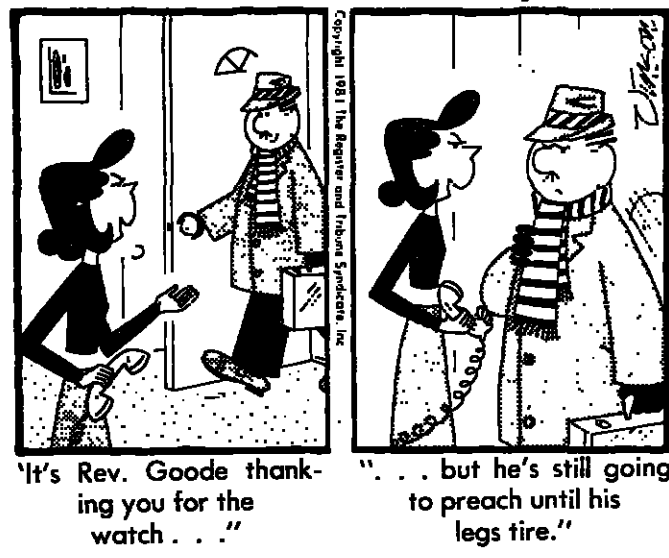


MUNICH (INP) — Technical toys help promote equal opportunity for girls. In England the "Equal Opportunity Commission" recently determined that insufficient experience with technical toys is the reason why girls do worse in mathematics and technical subjects. The British have thus demanded that girls be brought into contact with technology at a preschool age as well as at schools later.

In Germany a number of years ago, the German Museum in Munich and the "Fischertechnik" Company carried out a joint study designed to determine what girls are capable of achieving in the technical sector, provided they are given a chance to acquaint themselves with these things at an early age.

The study showed that girls did about 10 per cent better than boys in a test given to children after visiting a technically oriented exhibition in the German Museum.

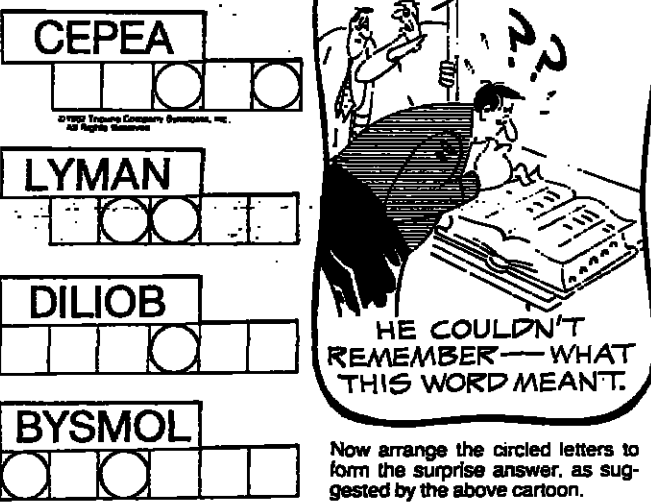
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by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

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Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



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Documents are available for collection against payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 75 or \$225 per set, consisting of two copies, at the following addresses:

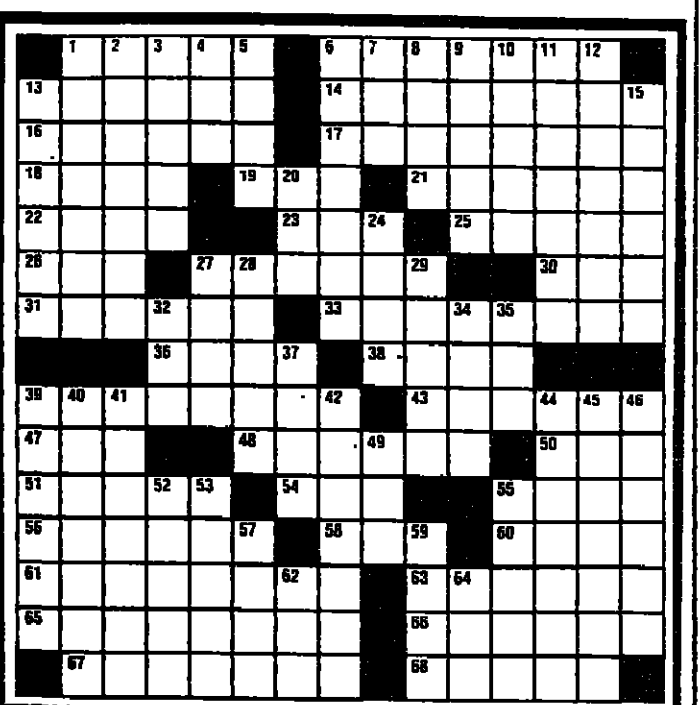
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The closing date for receiving proposals will 10 a.m., Saturday April 17, 1982.

THE Daily Crossword By Susan Mindell

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WORLD

Warsaw arrests 3,500 for martial law violations

WARSAW (R) — Polish security forces arrested 3,500 people during the past 48 hours in nationwide raids to check on compliance with martial law. Polish Radio said Wednesday.

The radio, monitored in Vienna, said nearly 145,000 people were found to have infringed martial law regulations.

Polish officials at the European security conference in Madrid last week said their most recent figures showed some 4,000 people were then detained.

The Polish government had initially indicated that up to 5,500 people were held following the Dec. 13 imposition of martial law.

In its broadcast Wednesday, Polish Radio said thousands of militia forces and voluntary reserves had checked some 51,000 enterprises and factories as well as 30,000 cars during the past two days.

The radio said 99,000 people were asked to present their identity cards and given a warning, while another 29,000 were "reminded of their duties."

Some 7,000 people were given fines totalling 2.3 million zlotys (about \$30,000) and 4,000 were

referred to "misdemeanour courts."

Police also checked 3,500 known criminal haunts, the radio said, adding that the raids were also aimed against disturbers of general public security.

The radio said the martial law regulations most frequently violated are those covering the curfew.

"More than 52,000 curfew breakers have been indicted so far all over the country," the radio said.

"Magistrates courts dealing with misdemeanours of this kind under summary procedures hand down fines of between 1,500 and

5,000 zlotys (about \$20 and \$60) or one month's imprisonment."

The official news agency PAP said last Monday that investigations against 2,727 people had been started under summary procedure since Dec. 13.

Of these, 964 cases involved direct violations of martial law, such as organising strikes, and the others common criminal offences, PAP said.

More than 4,000 people, mainly leaders of the suspended Solidarity free trade union and dissident backers of the movement, are known to be already detained in internment camps but have not been charged.

Union leaders to be tried,

WARSAW (A.P.) — Two Solidarity labour leaders at a steel mill will appear before a military court Tuesday in Krakow on charges of organising and leading strikes after martial law was declared, Radio Warsaw reported Wednesday.

An indictment from the Krakow regional military prosecutor's office said the men—Mieczyslaw Gil and Edward Nowak — organised a regional strike committee

Walesa to be freed

in the sprawling steel town of Nowa Huta, outside Krakow, and persuaded a few hundred students to stage strikes at the mining and metallurgy academy, the radio said.

On Dec. 14, a day after martial law was declared, workers in Nowa Huta and scattered areas in Poland, staged a general strike to show opposition to the new military regime.



Pope John Paul II

Beninois welcome pontiff

COTONOU, Benin (R) — Pope John Paul II arrived in Cotonou Wednesday to an ecstatic welcome from Benin's Roman Catholic minority and a stern revolutionary lecture from President Mathieu Kerekou.

Thousands of singing and dancing church supporters were allowed through tight security on to the runway as the papal plane from Lagos landed.

Silence then fell as President Kerekou, wearing traditional costume, launched into a 25-minute political speech with the Pope standing patiently beside him.

"Long live His Holiness Pope John Paul... ready for the revolution, the struggle continues," concluded the president, using one of the slogans coined by Benin's Marxist-Leninist government which came to power in a 1972 coup.

Tens of thousands of smiling, cheering people lined the route as the Pope, in a black convertible limousine, led the motorcade from the airport to Cotonou's soccer stadium.

At the stadium the all-ticket crowd into applause as the Pope, wearing a gold-rimmed red straw hat, made his way to the wooden altar beneath a green canopy in the centre of the pitch.

Salisbury police search for evidence of coup plot

SALISBURY (A.P.) — Zimbabwe soldiers and police were under orders on Wednesday to continue detentions of Joshua Nkomo's minority Zanu Party and search offices and homes of its officials for evidence of an alleged coup, security sources said.

An undisclosed number of officials and supporters of the Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union (ZAPU) have been detained under emergency powers regulations since more than 30 massive caches of arms were unearthed on ZAPU officials' properties early this month.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has accused Mr. Nkomo, his junior coalition government partner, of implication in a plot to stage a coup in the former British colony.

Mr. Nkomo has denied knowledge of the arms or a coup plot and has counter-claimed the weapons, sufficient to equip a 5,000-man brigade, were planted to discredit himself and his party.

In an interview Tuesday night Mr. Nkomo accused Mr. Mugabe of manoeuvring to force him to quit the leadership of ZAPU, thus weakening the party.

In the 100-member executive national assembly Mr. Mugabe holds 57 seats, Mr. Nkomo 20 and, former Prime Minister Abel Muzorewa three while the last white leader, Ian Smith, has all 20 white reserved seats.

Mr. Nkomo met with Mr. Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) ministers hours after Interior Minister Richard Hove announced that 11 companies owning farms, hotels and other businesses had been outlawed by presidential decree for alleged links to the hoarding of arms. Mr. Nkomo headed the boards of five of the companies while ZAPU cabinet ministers and other party officials sat on the boards of the others.

Police and soldiers were since tasked with investigating the activities of at least 44 other companies owned by Mr. Nkomo and other ZAPU officials, security sources who would not be named in compliance with government regulations told the Associated Press Wednesday.

Mr. Nkomo was backed mainly by Moscow and Mr. Mugabe chiefly by China.

Mozambican rebels claim holding key railway depot

LISBON (A.P.) — Rebel guerrillas fighting Mozambique's Marxist government Wednesday claimed they held a key railway depot linking Zimbabwe to the port of Maputo in a direct challenge to last week's military agreement signed by the former Portuguese colony and Tanzania.

Evo Fernandes, Lisbon spokesman for the Mozambique National Resistance (RNM), told the Associated Press rebel forces overpowered a combined Mozambican and Tanzanian force guarding the depot at Mahabane last Sunday and withdrew a day later.

The town is located some 250 kilometres north of Maputo, the

capital, in Gaza Province on the Limpopo River.

"We want to keep this important railway out of work," Mr. Fernandes stated after pointing to the importance of Mozambican lines to landlocked Zimbabwe.

The rebels have effectively shut down the run since an attack on the town of Comombane, 70 kilometres northwest of Mahabane Dec. 17, he said.

Mr. Fernandes played down the agreement signed last week by Mozambique President Samora Machel and his Tanzanian counterpart Julius Nyerere for aid from Dar-es-Salaam to Maputo.

MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

Saudi newspaper assails PLO official

RIYADH (A.P.) — Saudi newspapers blasted Wednesday the number two man in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Salah Khalaf, for recent statements critical of Saudi Middle East policy. "If we adopt the suspect logic of Abu Ayad (Mr. Khalaf), then PLO acquisition of Soviet weapons means the PLO is a Soviet agent, and (PLO Chairman) Yasser Arafat's call for a dialogue with President Reagan means the PLO wants to become an American agent," said the government-guided newspaper Okaz. "We never expected that a person at Mr. Khalaf's responsibility would plummet to this pit of thinking, which sows seeds of dissent and works against the interests of the Arab and Palestinian people," the paper said.

N. Yemenis to fight for Palestine

BEIRUT (R) — North Yemen is encouraging its nationals to join Palestinian commando groups in Lebanon, North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh was quoted as saying Wednesday. President Saleh said in an interview with the Beirut magazine Al Jambour that a delegation from Sanaa visited Lebanon recently to make arrangements for the transfer of such volunteers. "In the face of Israeli transgression and repeated Zionist aggression against the Arab Nation, it has become crucial that able members of the Arab Nation should join the battle of destiny," he said.

Wazzan to visit 5 Arab states next week

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan plans to visit five Arab states in the Gulf next week, official sources said Wednesday. Mr. Wazzan will start his tour in Saudi Arabia on Sunday and then go on to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar, returning to Beirut on Friday, the sources said. The independent Lebanese newspaper An Nahar said Mr. Wazzan would discuss financial aid to Lebanon, fears of an Israeli attack in the south and the prospects for an Arab League committee working to reconcile Lebanon's warring factions.

Syria brings down territorial claim

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria, which last year said it was extending its territorial waters from 12 to 35 miles, said Wednesday it would abide by any international limit laid down by the United Nations. The 35-mile limit was proclaimed last August shortly after American warplanes shot down two Libyan fighters, which the U.S. said opened fire in the Gulf of Sirte off the Libyan coast, where an American naval exercise was under way.

Australian forces to start for Sinai

CANBERRA (R) — An Australian supply ship will leave for the Middle East Thursday with eight helicopters and support equipment for the Sinai peacekeeping force, Foreign Minister Tony Street said Wednesday. He told parliament that Australia was expected to contribute about 120 air crew, support personnel and military police to the force, although full agreement on its participation still had to be completed.

Spanish police report ETA on warpath

MADRID (R) — Government officials Wednesday said Basque separatists had killed two civil guards in an attempt to destabilise Spain just before the trial of 32 officers charged with involvement in an abortive military coup a year ago.

The two paramilitary guards were shot dead within hours of each other Tuesday night in the Basque region of north Spain. Prime Minister Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo and Interior Minister Juan Jose Roson attended their funeral in San Sebastian Wednesday.

No-one has claimed responsibility for the killings, but police said in a statement that the hardline Military wing of the separatist group ETA (ETA-M) was responsible.

The Basque regional government denounced the murders as "a shameful act... by those who clearly want to sink the democratic process in its most delicate moments."

On Friday 32 military officers—mostly Civil Guards—and one civilian go on trial accused of taking part in the rightist coup attempt last Feb. 23. One reason frequently cited for the coup bid was anger among the military over uncontrolled separatist violence.

Spanish authorities, who fear a new terror campaign by ETA-M during the trial, are also faced with the possibility of violence from ETA's more moderate Political-Military wing (ETA-

PM) which declared a truce just after the failed coup.

The San Sebastian newspaper El Diario Vasco reported Wednesday that a weekend meeting of ETA-PM voted in favour of returning to armed struggle.

Well-informed Basque sources said the report should be taken with some seriousness. An interior ministry spokesman said ETA-PM had been holding meetings over the past weeks on whether to take up arms again, but he did not know whether a decision had been taken.

Police have stepped up their presence throughout the Basque region for the start of the trial and Wednesday announced the arrest of nine suspected members of ETA-M in Bilbao.

Israeli uproar 'preemptive', Weinberger says...

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Israeli reaction to reports that the U.S. is offering sophisticated Hawk missiles to Jordan is "a little preemptive" action, a senior administration official said here Tuesday.

Secretary of State Caspar Weinberger, in an interview on NBC Television's Today show, also said that the sale of Hawk missiles to Jordan is "a long way down the road," and "adding strength to other countries (than Israel) in the Mideast can really only serve the best interests of all the countries in the Mideast."

Following are excerpts from the interview:

Question: As we reported earlier, the Israeli parliament yesterday voted to oppose a U.S. arms sale to Jordan. And Prime Minister Begin said that it would violate President Reagan's pledge to maintain Israel's military superiority in the region. What's your reaction?

Mr. Weinberger: Well, I think that's a little preemptive action, perhaps, because there's no pending sale to Jordan. There have been discussions of things that I had with them as to what their military needs were, which, of course, is one of the statutory responsibilities

of the post I have now. And in the course of those discussions, they mentioned the fact that to be effective, "anti-aircraft defence, such as the Hawk missile, needs to be mobile, which is, of course, an accepted and standard fact. It is also, by definition, by nature, by name, a defensive weapon. So we had discussions of that."

They have no request pending. If a request comes in, it would be considered by the president and the security council. It would then, if favourably approved — would have to go to the Congress.

So talk of arms sale to Jordan, because we had discussions in Jordan about it, is, I think, really quite premature.

Q: Do you believe, though, that the sale of anti-aircraft missiles and of F-16 fighters would, in some sense, jeopardise Israel's military superiority in the region?

A: No, I think Israel's margin of superiority is very great, and the president, the administration are pledged to maintain that margin of superiority. I do think that there is quite a difference between an anti-aircraft missile and a fighter plane. But I don't think there's any suggestion that there would be anything other than careful consideration given, including the

consideration of Israel's interest and of the pledge that the administration has always had to maintain that strategic superiority, strategic edge that they have.

What is important, however, is that the United States have more than one friend in the Mideast. And adding strength to other countries in the Mideast can really only serve the best interests of all the countries in the Mideast, specifically including Jordan, and certainly including ourselves, by the means of protecting the Mideast against incursions by the Soviets, or other threats...

Q: Does Mr. Reagan share your view about the need to beef up Jordan's air defence?

A: I think Mr. Reagan, President Reagan, is going to have to, and certainly is fully capable of speaking for himself on all of these issues. I have not expressed any administration opinion, or anything of the kind. All I've done is, in discussions with the Jordanians, learned that they feel they need additional anti-aircraft defensive strength. And if they should make a request for that, that is making the Hawk that we sold them earlier more mobile and more useful, and thus preclude the necessity of their getting Soviet equipment, then we would certainly want to

discuss that and, if we agree that that should be done, make the request of Congress.

But that's a long way down the road.

Q: You talk about the Israeli reaction as if it's an overreaction. But let me ask you about a number of statements that came out of your trip to the Middle East, most of them attributed to a senior official, who most people, at least in this town, think was you.

A: And many of them very inaccurate, I have to say.

Q: Well, let me ask you about them.

A: All right.

Q: And I'll read you some of the quotes. That the administration has given up trying to deal with Begin and is getting rough with Israel.

A: Absolutely wrong. All that was ever said on the trip was that it was important that the United States have many friends in the Mideast, more than one friend; that we not be perceived as having a willingness to have only one friend; and that it was important to us, it was important to the Mideast and to Israel for the U.S. to add to the strength of a number of countries in that region so that they would be able to resist incursions by the Soviets.

...as media criticise Washington's global policy

The following are extracts from editorials in the New York Times and The Times (of London) Wednesday on the Reagan administration and the Middle East:

New York Times: 'What goes on here?'

"In Saudi Arabia, humiliation. In Jordan, mystification. In Israel, indignation. Thus ends another of Defence Secretary Weinberger's good-will missions to the Middle East.

"Having poured his president's blood and sweat into the AWACS sale, Mr. Weinberger was bluntly told by the Saudis... he was just an arms salesman."

"On to Jordan... Mr. Weinberger offered every modern jet and missile in his order book, omitting any political price and insisting that Israel's objections would be no obstacle.

"Wonder of wonders, Israel exploded, declaring itself threatened and betrayed. And that evoked a lame clarification of Mr. Weinberger's remarks... and a soothing new promise from Mr. Reagan that Israel's superiority would never be compromised.

"What goes on here?"

"The cleverest interpretation is that the Reagan team seeks bases and commerce by heavily tilting American policy toward the Arabs — and is softening up the Israelis with a diplomatic version of good cop, bad cop... but in fact, every new round hardens even moderate Israelis and reduces American influence. The game is bound to provoke grave crisis or even war."

"Another explanation is no policy. Period... so Mr. Haig manoeuvres to avoid war, Mr. Weinberger goes bellend for military bases and sales and Mr. Reagan cleans up the political fallout..."

"That leaves one possibility: That the Reagan team believes its own propaganda about a 'strategic consensus.' The theory it brought

to office... was that Israel and moderate Arabs live in such terror of Soviet aggression or subversion that they will soon abandon their enmity and take America as their joint protector. But the Arabs and Israelis scoff at the idea, they seek help mainly against each other.

"Pretending otherwise may be a way to justify avoiding some painful choices about the West Bank, Jerusalem, Camp David and the P.L.O. It's hard to believe that such wishful thinking persists. But if it doesn't, why does the restless Mr. Weinberger think he has a magic carpet?"

The Times: 'Put horse before cart'

"The proposed sale... seems likely to become the object of another major political battle in the United States similar to the one over the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia last year.

"Certainly the president (Ronald Reagan) will need once again to throw his personal authority into the scale if the deal is to go through.

"Mr. Reagan might well win this battle as he won the last, but his domestic political position is no longer as strong as it was last year and he might, on reflection, decide that the diversion of energies from the battle to get his budget accepted and to preserve Republican positions in the mid-term congressional elections was more than he could afford. He might also ask himself whether, if he is going to take on the pro-Israel lobby in a pitched battle — never a decision to be taken lightly by any American leader — this is the right issue on which to do it.

"Before long we shall reach the position where an Arab-Israeli war can be fought mainly with American weapons on both sides, thereby no doubt greatly increasing the profits of the American arms industry but also casting severe doubt on the seriousness of America's commitment to peace. It is time for Mr. Reagan and his advisors to try putting the horse before the cart."

The WEEKEND CROSSWORD

POLICEMAN'S LOT

By Stephen Charles

ACROSS

- 1 Leg part
- 2 Parker of film
- 3 Constructed
- 4 Travel
- 5 S.S. Van Dine's
- 6 Sides
- 7 Composer
- 8 Kachchur
- 9 None god
- 10 Earl Derr
- 11 Bigger
- 12 Sides
- 13 Ian Fleming's
- 14 Carphone in
- 15 Hold back
- 16 Stories with
- 17 Concerning
- 18 Evergreen
- 19 Sides
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DOWN

- 1 Protected from
- 2 Taking on help
- 3 Sides
- 4 Black Fr.
- 5 Sides
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Diagramless

18 X 18, by Sunny Francis

ACROSS

- 1 Unlucky child
- 2 Carfare
- 3 Sides
- 4 Sides
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DOWN

- 1 Confirmed
- 2 Read poetry
- 3 Violent person
- 4 Low voice
- 5 Make a choice
- 6 Make a choice
- 7 Make a choice
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